

Farm Structure Survey in Italy - 2007

75 % of the agricultural holdings are specialized in crop production¹.

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This Statistics in Focus is part of a series of country-specific publications on the results of the Farm Structure Survey (FSS) 2007. It provides a brief but nevertheless comprehensive insight into the farm structure in Italy.

1 680 000 agricultural holdings were recorded in Italy in the 2007 Farm Structure Survey (3% less than in 2005). The labour force involved in agriculture activity has fallen by 5%, while the utilized agricultural area and the total of livestock have increased by 0.3 % and 4% respectively.

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Due to the different coverage of the FSS across Member States, the total number of farms is not comparable between countries. This is why the present analysis, including Tables 1-4 and the graphs focus on holdings of at least one European Size Unit (ESU). See the methodological notes for more information on the concept of ESU.

In 2007, 82% of the Italian **agricultural holdings** (1.4 million) had an economic size of at least 1 ESU.

They used about **12.5 million ha of utilised agricultural area** (UAA), an increase of 0.3% compared with 2005. This area represents 98% of the total UAA in Italy and an average of 9 ha per holding.

These holdings employed **1.2million AWUs** (annual work units), the equivalent of 1.2 million people working full time; (4% less than 2005). The AWU per holding has reduced from 0.92 in 2005 to 0.88 in 2007.

They had **9.88 million livestock units** (LSU) in 2007, an increase of 3.6% compared with 2005.

Amongst these **1.4million** agricultural holdings:

66% made use of less than one AWU, while another 11% made use of 2 or more AWUs;

41% used less than 2 ha, while 3% used 50 ha or more;

26% produced mainly for own consumption and 19% mainly for direct sales;

75% of Italian farms specialise in crops¹.

21% of the holdings specialised in olives;

12% specialised in cereals, oil seed and protein crops.

11% specialised in mixed cropping;

The family labour force has decreased by 4% from 2005 to 2007 but its weight in the total labour force has decreased from 67% in 2005 to 66% in 2007.

Amongst the sole holders:

31% were women;

66% were aged 55 or more and 3% were younger than 35 years;

26% of the sole holders had another gainful activity in 2007.

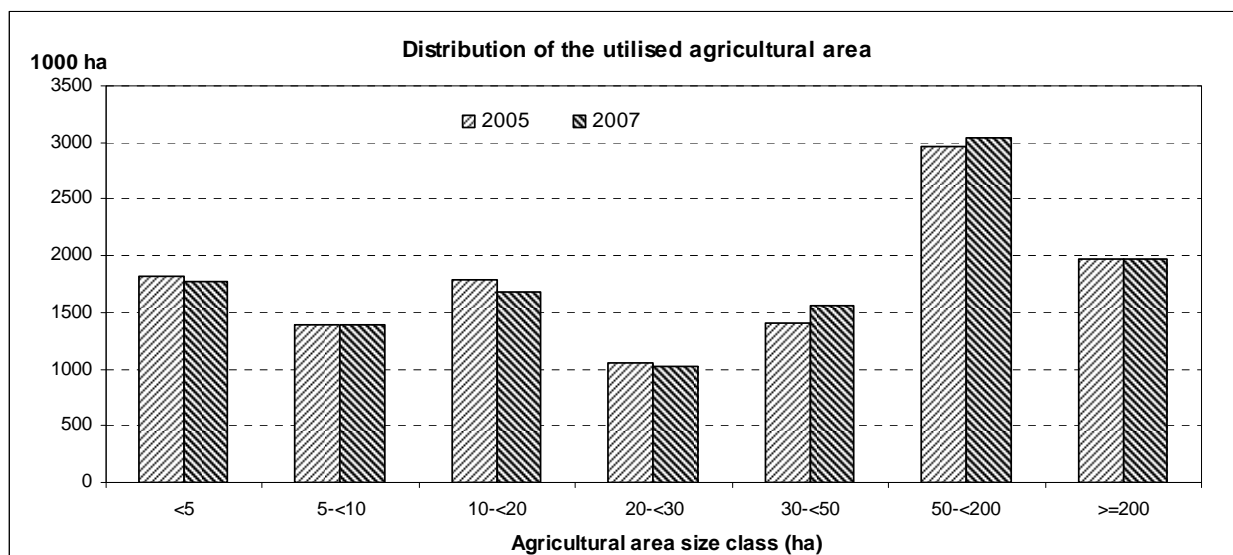
In Italy in 2007, 8.8 million hectares (71%) of the agricultural area was farmed by its owners, a 4% decrease compared with 2005.

The area of permanent crops rose by 3% from 2005 to 2007. The increase was mainly in the olive trees (4%) and vineyards (5%). 72% of the area of permanent crops was in holdings with less than 20 ha.

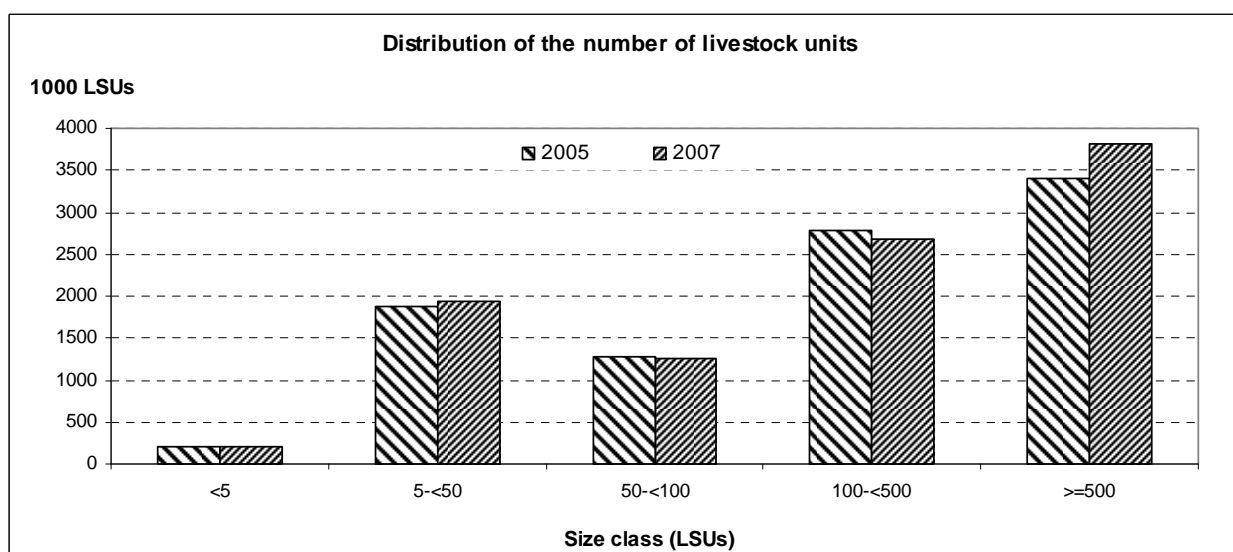
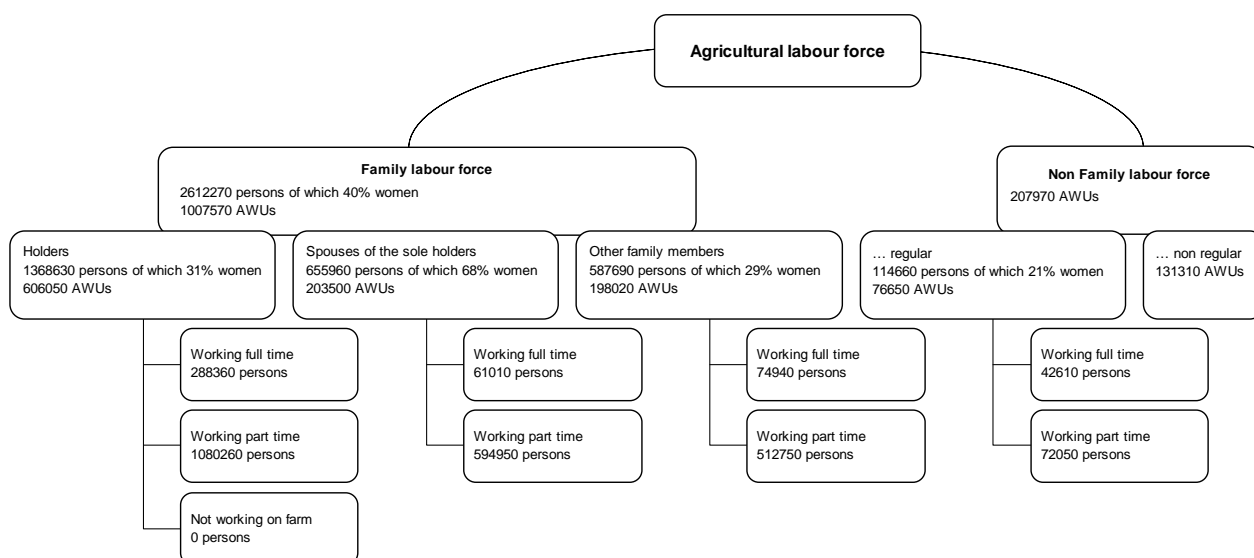
In spite of a 6% decrease in the number of holdings with organic farming, there was a 15% increase in the area under organic farming; in 2007 it counted for 5.6% of the UAA (a rise compared to 4.9% in 2005).

The number of farms with livestock increased by 5%. The number of beehives reduced by 30%, and the number of holding with beehives, was down by 13% since 2005.

¹ A farm of types 1 (specialist field crops), 2 (specialist horticulture) or 3 (specialist permanent crops).



Description of the labour force in Italy



*LSUs = Livestock Unit

Table 1 – Labour force by size of the farms

Size of the farms	Agricultural area (ha)				All farms	Livestock (LSU*)			
	<20	20-<50	50-<100	>=100		0	>0-<50	50-<100	>=100
Total labour force									
1000 annual work units	935.2	153.9	67.8	58.7	1215.5	795.7	317.8	43.0	59.0
Family labour force									
1000 persons	2362.5	169.6	56.2	23.9	2612.3	2000.7	527.5	43.5	40.6
1000 annual work units	833.1	112.6	42.3	19.5	1007.6	637.7	299.3	35.9	34.7
Non-family labour regularly employed									
1000 persons	52.3	18.9	15.4	28.1	114.7	79.4	10.1	4.3	20.9
1000 annual work units	30.3	13.9	11.1	21.3	76.7	47.9	7.2	3.4	18.1
Non regular non family labour force									
1000 annual work units	71.7	27.3	14.4	17.9	131.3	110.1	11.3	3.7	6.2
Holding managers	1000	1260.1	83.2	27.0	1383.3	1100.9	248.8	17.5	16.1
- women	(%)	29.6	18.2	14.1	28.5	29.3	27.7	9.0	6.4
- part-time: - under 50 %	(%)	68.4	20.6	15.5	64.1	72.9	33.1	4.3	4.4
- 50 % and over	(%)	14.2	18.7	14.6	14.4	13.8	18.5	5.4	5.2
Sole/main holders	1000	1253.2	80.2	25.2	1368.6	1089.1	247.4	17.2	14.9
- women	(%)	32.1	19.4	16.8	30.9	32.0	29.2	9.7	7.0
-distribution by age	(%)								
- under 35 years		2.8	7.8	9.7	8.8	3.3	2.7	5.0	7.6
- from 35 to 44 years		9.9	22.5	24.0	21.1	10.9	9.8	14.3	23.9
- from 45 to 54 years		19.1	23.6	26.4	25.4	19.5	18.7	21.9	26.5
- from 55 to 64 years		24.0	19.6	18.3	18.8	23.6	23.7	23.5	19.2
- 65 years and over		44.3	26.4	21.7	25.9	42.7	45.1	35.2	17.3
- part-time: - under 50 %	(%)	68.8	21.4	16.6	24.8	64.7	73.7	33.3	4.4
- 50 % and over	(%)	14.2	19.4	15.6	16.0	14.6	13.9	18.6	5.5
- with another gainful activity ¹	(%)	26.8	17.5	12.2	11.5	25.8	27.2	22.0	7.3
- as a main occupation		22.9	8.3	5.0	3.2	21.5	23.8	13.8	1.6
- as a subsidiary occupation		3.9	9.2	7.2	8.3	4.3	3.4	8.2	5.7
Spouse of sole holder	1000	602.7	38.1	10.9	656.0	486.9	152.1	9.5	7.4
- women	(%)	67.4	79.3	78.7	89.7	68.4	67.6	68.7	89.2
-distribution by age	(%)								
- under 35 years		2.0	6.4	5.3	8.9	2.4	2.0	2.8	9.3
- from 35 to 54 years		33.7	49.3	57.4	58.0	35.1	33.0	39.0	58.6
- 55 years and over		64.3	44.3	37.3	33.1	62.5	64.9	58.2	32.1
- part-time: - under 50 %	(%)	82.7	57.4	51.4	36.3	80.4	87.6	62.5	34.9
- 50 % and over	(%)	9.5	17.5	20.6	23.5	10.3	7.7	17.3	17.4
- with another gainful activity	(%)	28.4	25.1	27.7	26.5	28.2	28.3	29.3	16.0
Other members of the holder's family working on the holding	1000	506.5	51.2	20.1	587.7	424.7	127.9	16.8	18.3
- women	(%)	29.8	24.5	22.1	20.2	28.9	28.4	32.3	25.0
- part-time: - under 50 %	(%)	83.5	48.3	29.3	23.2	77.6	85.7	66.1	25.9
- 50 % and over	(%)	8.4	17.9	16.8	14.0	9.6	7.4	15.7	16.7
- with another gainful activity	(%)	50.2	31.0	19.4	13.6	46.9	50.5	44.3	15.1

*LSU = Livestock unit

¹ Only holders who are also farm managers

": not available

"0" less than a half of the unit or nil

Size of the farms		Agricultural area (ha)				All farms	Livestock (LSU)			
		<20	20-<50	50-<100	>=100		0	>0-<50	50-<100	>=100
Holdings										
- total number	1000	1260.1	83.2	27.0	13.0	1383.3	1100.9	248.8	17.5	16.1
- by legal personality of the holder	(%)									
- sole holder		99.5	96.5	93.4	76.5	98.9	98.9	99.5	98.0	92.4
- legal person		0.5	3.5	6.6	23.5	1.1	1.1	0.5	2.0	7.6
- group holders		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
- by employed labour force	(%)									
- under 1 AWU		71.1	22.2	13.6	12.8	66.5	75.8	33.9	2.7	0.7
- from 1 to less than 2 AWU		21.2	41.1	34.5	22.7	22.7	17.6	44.7	29.4	20.6
- from 2 to less than 3 AWU		5.8	20.4	26.2	22.4	7.3	4.3	16.9	39.8	28.4
- 3 AWU and over		1.9	16.3	25.7	42.1	3.6	2.3	4.5	28.1	50.4
- by economic size	(%)									
- from 1 to less than 8 ESU		72.2	5.4	4.2	1.1	66.2	71.4	52.3	0.1	0.1
- from 8 to less than 16 ESU		13.9	14.1	4.2	2.3	13.6	12.7	19.5	0.4	0.1
- from 16 to less than 40 ESU		9.3	41.9	23.1	9.7	11.5	9.5	20.9	11.8	2.2
- from 40 to less than 100 ESU		3.5	25.3	39.0	28.6	5.8	4.5	6.2	71.9	15.3
- 100 ESU and over		1.0	13.4	29.5	58.4	2.9	1.9	1.1	15.8	82.3
- by type of farming (top 5 + 'other')	(%)									
... specialist olives		23.1	3.9	2.0	1.4	21.3	25.4	6.0	0	0
... specialist cereals, oil seed and protein crops		11.5	19.6	21.8	14.0	12.2	14.1	5.3	0.2	0.1
... mixed cropping		10.7	8.3	7.0	8.0	10.5	9.7	15.2	0.9	0.4
... general field cropping		10.1	15.2	9.5	10.6	10.4	11.6	6.4	0.8	0.3
... specialist vineyard		10.5	5.0	3.8	2.5	9.9	12.0	2.0	0.5	0.2
Other types of farming		34.1	48.0	56.0	63.5	35.6	27.0	65.1	97.6	99.1
- by farming methods	(%)									
- organic farming		2.1	7.6	9.7	14.2	2.7	2.2	4.3	7.0	4.6
- irrigating		36.0	44.9	46.2	44.5	36.9	35.2	41.0	53.1	70.8
- with crops under glass		2.0	1.1	0.7	1.0	1.9	2.2	0.7	1.0	0.3
- with another gainful activity than agricultural production:	(%)									
Tourism		6.4	14.4	16.7	19.6	7.2	5.4	14.1	15.7	10.8
Handicraft		1.0	3.7	3.8	5.3	1.3	0.8	3.3	2.3	1.9
Processing of farm products		0.1	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.2	0
Processing of farm products		5.2	10.6	12.8	14.0	5.8	4.4	11.2	12.8	8.9
Wood processing		0.1	0.2	0	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Aquaculture		0	0	0.1	0.2	0	0	0	0.1	0
Renewable energy production		0.2	0.3	1.2	1.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.5	0.8
Contractual work		0.1	1.2	1.1	1.8	0.2	0.1	0.4	1.0	0.8
Other gainful activities n.a.e		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

*LSU = Livestock unit

Italy – 2007

Table 3 – Land use by size of the farms

": not available

"0" less than a half of the unit or nil

Size of the farms	Agricultural area (ha)				All farms	Livestock (LSU)			
	<20	20-<50	50-<100	>=100		0	>0-<50	50-<100	>=100
Area	(1000 ha)								
Total area of agricultural holdings	6443.8	3142.6	2364.7	5261.0	17212.0	10899.0	3983.1	1024.5	1305.4
• H. Other area	1596.7	552.0	525.9	2086.1	4760.7	3413.7	938.9	187.5	220.6
Wooded area	1083.4	393.0	387.0	1694.2	3557.6	2610.5	678.1	121.6	147.4
• Agricultural area	4847.1	2590.6	1838.8	3174.9	12451.3	7485.2	3044.2	837.1	1084.8
- D. Arable land	2587.7	1709.6	1149.6	1321.5	6768.4	4098.3	1536.6	427.4	706.1
Cereals	1508.2	985.7	636.7	719.9	3850.5	2614.5	765.1	148.0	323.0
<i>Common wheat and spelt</i>	258.7	152.0	99.0	115.4	625.2	433.9	121.0	17.7	52.6
<i>Durum wheat</i>	586.0	433.0	205.4	212.7	1437.1	1146.3	215.5	40.6	34.7
<i>Rye</i>	1.9	0.9	0.3	0.7	3.8	2.1	1.1	0.2	0.4
<i>Barley</i>	158.3	96.9	52.4	54.0	361.6	169.6	131.9	28.3	31.8
<i>Oats</i>	63.2	37.6	22.9	30.5	154.2	64.3	69.1	13.5	7.4
<i>Grain maize</i>	411.1	221.3	160.5	189.6	982.5	569.2	190.8	41.5	181.0
Dried pulses	41.7	30.1	17.8	23.4	113.0	82.6	20.0	4.5	5.9
Root crops	42.2	26.2	18.7	33.4	120.4	101.7	12.1	1.1	5.6
<i>Potatoes</i>	22.0	3.6	3.1	5.5	34.3	27.9	5.8	0.2	0.4
<i>Sugar beet</i>	19.2	22.2	15.2	27.6	84.2	72.8	5.5	0.9	4.9
<i>Fodder root</i>	1.0	0.3	0.3	0.4	1.9	1.0	0.7	0	0.2
Industrial crops	75.1	44.8	40.0	69.3	229.3	191.1	23.0	3.1	12.1
<i>Tobacco</i>	8.8	2.5	2.1	7.5	21.0	16.7	3.3	0.5	0.6
<i>Hops</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Cotton</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Rape and turnip</i>	0.6	1.4	2.4	3.6	8.0	6.0	0.9	0.1	1.0
<i>Sunflower</i>	29.4	18.1	18.3	22.0	87.8	72.5	11.2	0.5	3.7
<i>Soya</i>	34.2	20.6	15.5	33.5	103.8	88.5	7.2	1.5	6.7
Fresh vegetables, melons, strawberry	127.3	51.1	22.6	30.4	231.4	199.3	21.7	3.9	6.4
<i>outside</i>	112.6	48.6	21.2	26.9	209.3	181.1	18.1	3.7	6.3
<i>under glass</i>	14.7	2.5	1.4	3.5	22.1	18.2	3.6	0.2	0.1
Flower and ornamental plants	9.4	0.7	2.6	0.4	13.1	12.5	0.5	0	0
<i>outside</i>	5.6	0.5	2.5	0.4	9.0	8.5	0.4	0	0
<i>under glass</i>	3.8	0.2	0	0.1	4.1	4.0	0.1	0	0
Forage plants	612.6	478.4	331.7	352.1	1774.8	574.1	625.3	255.1	320.2
Fallow land	163.5	88.7	77.5	87.7	417.4	307.1	66.8	11.2	32.3
- E. Kitchen garden	23.2	1.3	0.4	0.1	25.0	15.7	8.9	0.3	0.2
- F. Permanent pasture and meadows	592.6	554.1	534.3	1684.4	3365.5	1403.0	1246.0	379.0	337.4
- G. Permanent crops	1643.6	325.5	154.5	168.9	2292.4	1968.2	252.8	30.3	41.1
Fruit and berry plantation	295.4	56.9	21.8	27.5	401.4	342.8	46.5	4.8	7.3
Citrus plantation	81.2	17.9	7.4	5.6	112.1	106.1	5.1	0.3	0.6
Olive trees	765.3	117.3	50.8	65.6	999.0	854.4	117.7	8.0	18.9
Vineyard	484.9	130.7	71.5	66.4	753.5	641.9	81.0	17.1	13.5
Ratios									
Agricultural area per holding	(ha)	3.8	31.2	68.1	244.2	9.0	6.8	12.2	47.8
Agricultural area...	(%)								
... own farmed		83.0	64.7	59.0	63.1	70.6	79.7	60.9	49.0
... in less favoured or mountain area		44.4	45.5	46.5	66.2	50.5	43.6	67.3	38.2
... organic farmed		2.7	6.1	7.7	8.3	5.6	4.0	7.0	10.6
... irrigated		22.4	23.4	24.3	15.7	21.2	22.4	12.5	17.5

*LSU = Livestock unit

": not available

"0" less than a half of the unit or nil

Size of the farms		Agricultural area (ha)				All farms	Livestock (LSU)			
		<20	20-<50	50-<100	>=100		0	>0-<50	50-<100	>=100
Total livestock	(1000 LSU)	4141.0	2348.0	1525.0	1871.9	9885.8	0	2138.0	1254.2	6493.7
of which grazing	(%)	47.6	67.3	65.0	52.9	56.0	:	92.5	92.9	36.8
Grazing livestock	(1000 heads)									
Equidae		84.3	38.2	10.7	14.5	147.6	0	120.7	18.0	9.0
Bovine animals		2351.0	1757.9	1070.3	1181.8	6361.0	0	1885.7	1284.1	3191.2
Under 1 year		758.7	429.8	227.1	322.5	1738.1	0	479.1	294.6	964.4
From 1 to less than 2 years		563.3	395.7	260.4	312.5	1532.1	0	434.5	269.0	828.7
Dairy cows		623.4	606.2	355.4	305.9	1890.9	0	442.0	450.8	998.1
Other cows		204.5	151.8	110.1	133.1	599.5	0	322.5	148.1	128.9
Other bovine animals 2 years and older		201.1	174.3	117.4	107.7	600.5	0	207.7	121.6	271.2
Sheep		2009.1	2081.1	1540.8	1147.4	6778.4	0	4399.3	1555.4	823.7
Goats		447.5	191.6	144.2	152.4	935.6	0	698.1	169.5	68.1
Granivores										
Pigs	(1000 heads)	2686.6	1983.2	1517.2	2845.8	9032.7	0	401.9	258.5	8372.3
Piglets < 20 kg		497.2	429.3	295.6	580.4	1802.5	0	58.5	84.6	1659.4
Breeding sows		173.2	137.4	113.2	284.0	707.8	0	42.1	20.3	645.3
Other pigs		2016.2	1416.6	1108.3	1981.3	6522.4	0	301.3	153.5	6067.6
Poultry	(million heads)	113.9	21.4	11.5	10.3	157.1	0	3.1	2.8	151.2
Broilers		68.3	12.5	6.8	5.6	93.2	0	1.8	2.0	89.4
Laying hens		24.5	5.9	3.4	3.2	37.0	0	1.0	0.6	35.4
Other poultry		21.1	2.9	1.4	1.5	26.9	0	0.3	0.2	26.4
Rabbits, breeding females	(1000 heads)	618.5	189.6	8.5	6.1	822.7	0	652.9	76.9	93.0
Beehives	(1000)	472.6	11.8	0.7	3.9	489.0	456.1	28.4	1.5	3.0
Average size of herds*	(head/holding)									
Equidae	(head/holding)	4.1	6.4	5.0	7.8	4.9	:	4.5	8.0	7.7
Cattle	(head/holding)	23.1	65.9	95.8	213.3	43.8	:	15.8	85.4	291.9
Dairy cows	(head/holding)	15.1	43.7	68.5	133.8	30.1	:	9.8	44.6	132.2
Other cows	(head/holding)	7.5	16.2	25.2	53.3	13.8	:	8.7	33.4	73.0
Sheep	(head/holding)	40.1	149.8	255.9	429.7	93.2	:	66.0	334.1	583.4
Goats	(head/holding)	17.8	40.1	75.0	138.8	28.4	:	22.7	96.2	145.7
Pigs	(head/holding)	34.0	184.8	380.3	1602.3	94.7	:	4.6	58.0	1926.4
Breeding sows	(head/holding)	26.1	29.7	52.7	257.3	48.7	:	3.9	10.9	355.9
Other pigs > 20 kg	(head/holding)	25.9	140.0	290.7	1196.4	69.9	:	3.6	35.7	1447.4
Rabbits, breeding females	(head/holding)	29.0	125.7	18.9	28.4	35.0	:	28.5	158.8	628.1
Laying hens	(1000/holding)	0.4	1.6	3.2	5.8	0.6	:	0	0.4	37.3
Broilers	(1000/holding)	1.6	4.7	9.9	16.6	2.0	:	0	1.5	63.0
Beehives	(hive/holding)	89.2	16.7	10.2	35.0	79.1	110.3	16.9	6.7	20.9

*LSU = Livestock unit

		Absolute figures			% of total	
		Total	< 1 ESU	>= 1 ESU	< 1 ESU	>= 1 ESU
Regular Labour force	(1000 pers)	3174.2	447.2	2726.9	14.1	85.9
Regular labour force	(1000 AWU)	1169.4	85.2	1084.2	7.3	92.7
Holders with...	(1000)	1663.5	294.9	1368.6	17.7	82.3
... at least 65 years		740.5	156.7	583.9	21.2	78.8
... another gainful activity		440.9	84.3	356.6	19.1	80.9
Number of sole holdings	(1000)	1679.4	296.2	1383.3	17.6	82.4
... producing mainly for own consumption		498.6	134.7	363.8	27.0	73.0
... producing mainly for direct sales		292.3	30.1	262.2	10.3	89.7
SGM	(1000 ESU)	25000.0	165.6	24834.5	0.7	99.3
Agricultural area	(1000 ha)	12744.2	292.9	12451.3	2.3	97.7
... own farmed		9063.6	277.3	8786.3	3.1	96.9
Livestock	(1000 LSU*)	9900.7	14.8	9885.8	0.1	99.9

*LSU = Livestock unit

METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

The Italian National Statistical Institute (ISTAT), in collaboration with its regional offices was responsible for the implementation of the 2007 FSS in Italy. The FSS 2007 was the third sample survey after the last Agricultural Census in 2000 (AC 2000).

The farms covered by the survey were all holdings of at least 1 hectare, or bellow 1 ha and with production reaching a certain physical threshold or with sales of agricultural products of at least 2 500 €

The sample was selected from the reference population of near 2.6 million units (from the 2000 Agricultural Census as updated by the 2003 and 2005 FSS) with a random stratified sampling method, where the large farms were exhaustively sampled. The stratification was based on the regions, the UAA and LSU and the economic size of the holdings. The sample included about 64 000 holdings.

The data collection was carried out by personal interviews. Among the sampled holdings about 7% did not respond and close to 13% were inactive. The final result was close to 50 500 holdings representing about 1.7 million holdings (3%).

Non-response in the 2007 FSS in Italy was treated in three different ways: the unit non-response was corrected by reweighing; the item non-response for influent holdings was handled with imputation from administrative sources or by telephone checks; and for the item non-response for non-influent holdings automatic imputation was used.

Between FSS 2005 and 2007 "maintaining land in good agricultural and environmental conditions" (GAEC) became an agricultural activity and the concerned land has been included in the agricultural area. In Italy it

covers close to 41 640 ha, 94% in holdings with at least 1 ESU.

For each activity ('enterprise') on a farm (for instance wheat, dairy cow or vineyard), a Standard Gross Margin (SGM) is estimated, based on the area (or the number of heads) and a regional coefficient. The sum of such margins in a farm is its economic size, expressed in European Size Units (ESU, 1 ESU is a 1200-euro SGM). An Annual work unit (AWU) is equivalent to a worker employed on a full time basis for one year. In Italy it is 1800 hours (225 working days of 8 working hours per day).

A Livestock Unit (LSU) is equivalent to a dairy cow. The number of animals (number of heads) is converted into LSU using a set of coefficients reflecting the feed requirements of the different animal categories.

REFERENCE PUBLICATIONS

Website of the Italian National Statistical Institute (ISTAT): <http://www.istat.it>

National Methodological Report – FSS 2007 (available on request)

Further information

Data: [Eurostat Website: http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat](http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat)

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Agriculture



Structure of agricultural holdings

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